



MINUTES OF BROWN EDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023
BROWN EDGE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM

Lingfield Avenue Residents Consultation:

Prior to the Parish Council meeting, 16 members of the public attended a consultation for residents whose properties have boundaries adjacent to the New Cemetery Field. Residents were given the opportunity to air their concerns regarding a boundary hedge being planted. These comments will be considered by the Council at a future meeting.

Present:

Chairman Cllr. Felton, Vice-Chairman Cllr. Bedson, Cllr. Berrisford, Cllr. Wright, Cllr. Hunt, Cllr. Oberholster & Cllr. Woodward.

Cllr. Porter (Parish & District) & Cllr. Flunder (District & County) arrived later at 19.42

5 members of the public

Minutes recorded by Mrs. D Wheat (Clerk)

1) Chairman's Welcome and Announcements:

- a) The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair introduced Hayley Harrison the new Clerk. A gradual handover will be implemented.
- b) Thank you to everyone who supported the Remembrance memorial in the Village.

2) Apologies for Absence:

Cllr. Hargreaves – family commitment

Cllr. Jebb (District) – attending a District Full Council meeting.

3) Parishioners Concerns:

- a) Resident Mr. Davis asked about the Neighbourhood plan progress in relation to getting the War Moors land designated as a green space.

The Chairman responded that the Neighbourhood Plan is of great importance. It was approved at the November meeting that the Parish Council would fund the Planning support for the final stages to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

The resident then explained the reasons the land should be protected from development as follows: The land was a natural habitat which has been destroyed recently when cleared. It is imperative that the habitat is reinstated. The land is an eco-system with a brook and a fen area with marsh grass species which are 100s of years old. The land is a nesting ground for bees. It is biodiverse. The land is a small, beautiful valley full of wildlife and it is a corridor where wildlife can hide. It is central to Brown Edge and should be preserved.

The Clerk received prior to the meeting, a report from Councillor Jebb. This will be circulated to the Council for consideration at the January meeting.

b) Resident Mr. McGrath thanked the Parish Council for holding a consultation with the community from Lingfield Avenue regarding the New Cemetery Field.

4) **PCSO Report:**

No officers were present. The Chairman urged the residents to report any issues to the police. The Clerk was asked to continue to make sure the PCSO's know the Parish meeting dates. A recent Road Traffic Incident was reported at Hill Top caused by ground water flooding.

5) **District Councillor Report:** No report available by Cllr. Jebb.

6) **Declaration of Interests:**

Cllr. Bedson – Carnival Committee

Cllr. Berrisford: Holly Bush

Cllr. Hunt: Carnival Committee, Luncheon Club and resident of Bank End adjacent to War Moors.

Public Participation: A parishioner who arrived late to the meeting was granted permission to speak regarding the Planning Item on Tongue Lane.

Mr. A Beaman of AJB construction who have traded for 50 years in the Moorlands and have pride in high quality construction have applied for outline planning consent for a single dwelling on Tongue Lane which is in the Green Belt. The land has had some commercial use, and an asbestos construction still exists. The land sits between two other residential dwellings and is in poor condition with rubble and weeds. Previous pre-planning comments have been taken into consideration and this application, if approved will improve the landscape, enhance biodiversity, improve, manage and maintain the land in better condition. The Developer asked for the Councils support. (Planning discussed under Item 10).

7) **Approval of the Minutes** of the Meeting held on 1st November 2023. A correction was made to the date of the December meeting and also the Lingfield Avenue consultation. The Clerk apologised as this mistake had been published in the Parish News. The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr. Wright – Seconded Cllr. Hunt

8) **Matters Arising from the previous meeting:**

a) **Holly Bush Car Park Signage:**

The Council thanked Cllr. Felton for organising and actioning the installation of Car Park signage on High Lane to define ownership of the land.

b) **Playing Field Consultation:**

A date was proposed to hold a consultation on the Playing Field where residents can come on site to discuss with the Council how they would like to see the Playing Field improved, including Playing equipment, outdoor Gym equipment, seating, bins, path lighting and improvements to the garden area adjacent to the gates. All suggestions invited.

A date was set for Saturday 20th January from 12-2pm

c) **Community Orchard:**

A Location to plant an Oak tree in commemoration for the Coronation of King Charles III and an additional Community Orchard was proposed, following a site visit to land adjacent to the Allotments. The green space will improve biodiversity. It was suggested to restore a pond which

was filled in the 1980s. A plan needs to be made to encourage people to visit and spend recreational time there, including some seating for picnics. Councillors will consult the Allotment committee to ask if they will maintain the path through the wildflower meadow, and the maintenance contractor would need to be asked to flail mow the path occasionally.

Proposed Cllr. Felton – Secoded Cllr. Wright – Motion Carried

- d) **Parking Issues on Breach Road grass verges:** No major issues were reported. It was resolved to take this item off the next agenda.
- e) **Overgrown weeds and docks on Bank End:**
Cllr. Porter had sent a written response from the District Maintenance team, confirming that due to the wet weather in Autumn they will not mow Bank End before the springtime.
- f) **Neighbourhood Plan:**
Urban Vision Planning consultant Hannah Barter is incorporating the additions Cllr. Berrisford has suggested into the policies. The Clerk confirmed that Urban Vision have stated they can prepare the document ready for the February meeting of the Parish Council.

9) Planning Applications:

SMD/2023/194	Tongue Lane	Considerations were given to the council being consistent because the land is in green belt. Questions were raised about enhancement of the area. This is not considered overdevelopment as there is already a commercial structure on the land.	<u>DECISION:</u> <i>Vote:6 in favour one abstention</i> No objection, although land is in Green Belt, this application will improve biodiversity improve the land in keeping with the adjacent properties
---------------------	-------------	--	---

Cllr. Flunder arrived at 19.42

10) Items on Notice:

a) **New Cemetery Field Maintenance:**

Cllr. Woodward moved for the council to have the divisional hedge cut back and lowered between the new cemetery field and the school sports ground and approximately 100m of grass weed killed to the top of the field behind Lingfield Ave properties:

The boundary between Parish Council land and the School Playing Field land has been allowed to get untidy. Cllr. Woodward and Cllr. Berrisford have met with maintenance contractors to get quotations. Winter is the ideal time to do this work. It was discussed whether the current contract could be amended to include the job on a regular maintenance program. Other quotations will be gathered. Tenders were discussed but the Clerk confirmed that three quotations and a resolution at the next meeting can be made without going out to tender.

Motion moved to the January meeting to be resolved.

Cllr. Porter arrived at 19.47

b) **Christmas lights competition:**

It was discussed the annual competition is too late to organise. The Parish Council agreed they will support the Santa Sleigh which will be going around the village on Thursday 21st December from 6pm. onwards. The donations to be collected on behalf of St Annes Church Carnival Queen. The sleigh journey will start at The Top Pub and finish at the Holly Bush pub.

11) Reports and actions:

a) ***The Chairman moved the Playing Field Item 17a from confidential into Item 11.***

Cllr. Felton and Cllr. Berisford met with the High Lane development representative on site at High Lane Playing Field. Several issues were raised in the Chairmans written report which was circulated to the Council. The council discussed the items and resolved that a letter can be sent to the developer with a statement of these concerns. A request to update the Land Registry for clarification on the land Boundary and a request to support the Community with sponsorship of bins. Shrubbery planting was also discussed.

With immediate effect the repair to the wall on High Lane that is damaged needs to be addressed.

Proposed Cllr. Felton – Secoded Cllr. Porter - All in favour.

b) **The Clerk reported from the SMDC Parish Assembly.** Clarification was requested regarding the Brown Edge Parish Representatives. Cllr. Felton and Cllr. Bedson both agreed to attend the next meeting. If not available another councillor needs to be nominated to attend where possible. Defibrillators and the management of 'The Circuit' which is the online list of defibrillators was reported as being a problem in some villages. SMDC have approved to contract a person to oversee the management of defibrillators across the Moorlands for a trial period. Details to be confirmed.

12) Correspondence:

a) **Cemetery Benches and memorial plaques:** The Clerk explained the applications currently in progress. The council discussed what changes could be made when the policy is reviewed in the New Year. It was approved for the three plaques applied for to be fitted to the current bench.

Proposed Cllr. Felton - Secoded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried.

b) **County Council Public Right of Way, Path 42:** Thelma Avenue to High Lane via the Playing Field. Lighting failure along the path was discussed. The proposal to part fund the path repair with the County Council was considered. The council resolved to inform the County PROW officer that the Parish Council do not support contributing to the maintenance of the County Council path.

Proposed – Cllr Felton – Secoded Cllr. Woodward – Motion Carried.

c) **Hedgehog Highway:**

Cllr. Porter stated that the District Council have implemented a 'Plan for Nature' and the Parish should support this where possible. Discussion was had about the mowing of pathways through grass would be better than mowing a whole area. Wildflowers could be planted on the bank sides. A new orchard area adjacent to the Allotments will be perfect for hedgehogs. Holes in fences between gardens were discussed. Cllr. Oberholster suggested a pack of arches could be bought and distributed to residents.

A letter from a resident was read out.

Cllr Berrisford stated that this has been covered in the Neighbourhood Plan policies. The vision and the objectives support Hedgehog preservation. It was discussed that Biodiversity net gain is increasing from January in the Planning process to 10% net gain for future developments.

The council resolved to support Hedgehog Highways.

Propose Cllr. Felton – Secoded Cllr. Bedson – Motion Carried

13) District Council Reports: Cllr Porter

- Cllr. Porter is working with residents to support applications for assisted bin collections.
- Grit Bins are being monitored and reported throughout the village.
- Dog fouling reports are increasing. The officer will be coming out to inspect the villages, stencil warnings on pavements and stickers on lampposts will be introduced.
- Street cleansing issues need to be reported to SMDC.
- Christmas food bags for elderly and vulnerable residents will be delivered to the residents.
- A campaign has been launched on social media to educate residents on how to report issues. If reference numbers are then reported to District Councillors, the actions can be monitored.
- Calendar cards are being delivered in the new year with Council information for residents.
- Cllr. Porter will hold councillor surgeries twice a month throughout the year. These face-to-face meetings are valuable to engage with residents.
- Morrisons deliveries, Cllr. Porter has spoken to staff. Morrisons have much smaller delivery vans and all future deliveries will be offloaded from the car park area.

County Councillor Report: Cllr. Flunder

- A County Council Corporate Parenting Panel are managing the costs of 'Looked After Children' LAC which have risen considerably in the County.
- The County Council audit and accounts are in progress.
- The Health Committee are working on hospital issues especially waiting times.
- DHP: The Clerk is working with Cllr. Flunder to resolve the delay in the Hill Top signage.

District Report:

- District have almost completed their audit and are preparing for the budget.
- Defibrillators have been the topic at the Health Committee after incidents in Ipstones and Tean.
- Training for Councillors and Clerks is available through the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association.
- The County Council have launched a community survey which is now live online through the Staffordshire County Council website. Please share and promote to residents.

14. Finance and Governance:

a) Bank Reconciliation up to 1st December 2023 was presented by the Clerk:

Natwest Current	£11,921.96
Natwest Business Reserve	£61,433.19
Cash	£0.00
GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£73,355.15

Payments were Authorised on 6th December 2023 for the following:

		Cheque
1.	Mrs D Wheat Clerk Salary	£454.60
	Phone (Tesco Mobile Top Up)	£ 7.50
	Mileage (Nov 2023)	£ 27.00
	TOTAL	£489.10 1219
2.	HMRC PAYE	£113.80 1220
3.	N&J Tree Services Ltd. 8th Maintenance Visit	£924.00 1221
4.	British Gas Playing Field Dec 23	£22.67 Direct Debit
5.	British Gas Cemetery Dec 23	£13.02
	TOTAL	£35.69
6.	Water Plus Cemetery Oct 23	£14.60
7.	PWLB Capital Repayment Principal	£2,453.00
8.	PWLB Interest	£2,536.00
	TOTAL	£4,989.00
	TOTAL PAYMENTS DECEMBER 2023	£6,566.19

b) RECEIPTS:

CEMETERY RECORDER:

2nd. November 2023. Purchase of Grave & Interment (@ Double Fees).	£870.00
6th. November 2023. Interment Fee (@ Double Fees).	£340.00
15th. November 2023. Headstone Fee.	£135.00
15th. November 2023. Headstone Fee.	£135.00
27th. November 2023. Headstone Fee.	£135.00

CLERK:

Insurance excess refund	£135.00
Lengthsman Grant 2022/23	£400.00
Moorlands Partnership Board Grant (Playing Field Gates)	£1,500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£3,650.00

The donation to the Poppy Appeal was then discussed and it was resolved to donate £40 for the wreath this year.

Proposed Cllr. Berrisford – Seconded Cllr. Oberholster- All in favour

c)The Budget: The budget setting report was presented by the Clerk. The Councillors resolved to take the information away to consider and come back to the January meeting to set the budget.

Cllr. Woodward left the meeting at 21.25.

15) Matters Pertaining for the January Agenda:

- a) Street Lighting
- b) Holly Bush Car Park
- c) Ask for PCSO presence at the meeting.

16) Motion to exclude members of the Press and Public as detailed in Schedule 12A of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 for the council to discuss confidential items.

Proposed Cllr Felton – Seconded Cllr. Oberholster – All in favour

The January meeting date was set as Wednesday 3rd January at 7pm at Brown Edge Village Hall.

The Chairman expressed season's greetings, then members of the public left the meeting:

I hereby state this is a correct account of the monthly meeting held by Brown Edge Parish Council.

Signed: (Chair)

Councillor

Date: